

Attorney Docket No. 10559-158001
Appl. No. 09/539,638
Amendment dated October 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 8, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

The title stands objected to as not being descriptive. In response, the examiner's suggested title has been adopted.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Yamaguchi. In response to this rejection, claims 15-27 are canceled. The remaining independent claims 1, 8 and 27 have been amended to recite that the enhancement is carried out using a frequency weighting matrix, as described in the specification on page 12. This weighting matrix has factors for different parts of the image which establish priority to the units of the second body of data. Such a frequency weighting matrix produces advantages, and is in no way taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

The newly-added dependent claims should be allowable for similar reasons to those discussed above. Specifically, claim 31 and other analogous claims define that the frequency weighting matrix defines an amount of shift of the matrix. This is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art. Claim 32 defines that the shifting makes the bits more or less

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significant. Claim 34 defines an additional advantage that the matrix supplies different factors for different portions of the image. This may be especially advantageous when carrying out the weighting in a matrix form. Claim 35 defines that the factors are based on the amount of data which was lost during quantization.

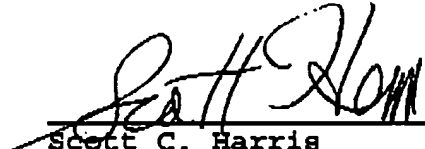
All of these claims totally distinguish over the cited prior art, and therefore, for reasons discussed above, it is respectfully suggested that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

A formal notice of allowance is hence respectfully requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account
No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/8/03



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